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Application No. 10/823,620
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REMARKS

In response top a telephone interview with the examiner, subject matter from claim 5 has been incorporated into claim 1 to distinguish over the prior art, including U.S. Patents 6,722,827 and 5,052,866.

In addition, new independent claim 6 has been added which corresponds to original claim 1 with the added recitations that the rear drawbar is slidable axially relative to the front drawbar, and that the piston of the gas spring is in contact with gas disposed in the gas chamber. Thus, the "piston" of claim 6 cannot be read on the piston 25 of U.S. Patent 6,722,827 which is not disposed in contact with gas 6 of the gas spring (note the seals 11, 12 on the piston 10 of '827 which prevent rear egress of gas). Thus, there is not present in '827 the combination of front and rear drawbars plus a piston releasably connected to the rear drawbar as recited in claim 6. Moreover, there is no disclosure in '827 of a rear drawbar axially slidable relative to a front drawbar.

Minor errors in paragraphs 0019 and 0026 have been corrected.

Accordingly, it is submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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